

Application. No.: 09/883,790

Filed: June 18, 2001

Response dated: April 5, 2006

Reply to Office Communication of March 6, 2004

**Appendix of Claims**

1. (Previously Presented) A bat comprising:
  - a hitting surface;
  - a handle element attached to the hitting surface; and
  - a sleeve positioned within the hitting surface, wherein the hitting surface and the sleeve are comprised of composite materials;
  - wherein the hitting surface is made from a first set of fibers and a first resin and wherein the sleeve is made from a second set of fibers and a second resin, the second set of fibers and the second resin being different than the first set of fibers and first resin.
2. (Original) The bat of Claim 1 wherein the hitting surface has a first stiffness and the sleeve positioned within the hitting surface has a second stiffness different than the first stiffness.
3. (Original) The bat of Claim 1 wherein the hitting surface has a first stiffness and the sleeve positioned within the hitting surface has a second stiffness different than the first stiffness, wherein the second stiffness is approximately 3 times the stiffness of the first stiffness.
4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Previously Presented) The bat of Claim 1 wherein the first set of fibers includes a tubular sock.
6. (Previously Presented) The bat of Claim 1 wherein the second fiber and resin is impregnated in the second set of fibers.
7. (Original) The bat of Claim 6 wherein the second fiber and second resin is an E-glass fiber impregnated resin.
8. (Previously Presented) The bat of Claim 1 wherein the second set of fibers and resin is a sheet of material.
9. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a bat comprising:  
forming a tubular hitting surface;  
forming a sleeve from composite material; and  
fitting the sleeve within the tubular surface.
10. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of fitting the sleeve within the tubular surface comprises force fitting the sleeve within the tubular hitting surface.

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11. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of forming a sleeve from composite material comprises laying up a plurality of layers of material.
12. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 11 wherein laying up a plurality of layers of material further comprises laying up a first layer of material and a second layer of material at different angles.
13. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 11 wherein laying up a plurality of layers of material further comprises laying up a first layer of material and a second layer of material at different angles, wherein the angles of laying up are varied to change the nodes of vibration within the bat.
14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of forming a sleeve from composite material comprises:  
laying up a plurality of layers of material; and  
wrapping the plurality of layers about a mandrel.
15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of forming a sleeve from composite material comprises:

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laying up a plurality of layers of material;

wrapping the plurality of layers about a mandrel; and

wrapping tape over the plurality of layers about the mandrel.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 14 wherein the step of wrapping tape includes:

wrapping a first layer of tape to produce a release layer; and

wrapping a second layer of tape to produce a strength layer.